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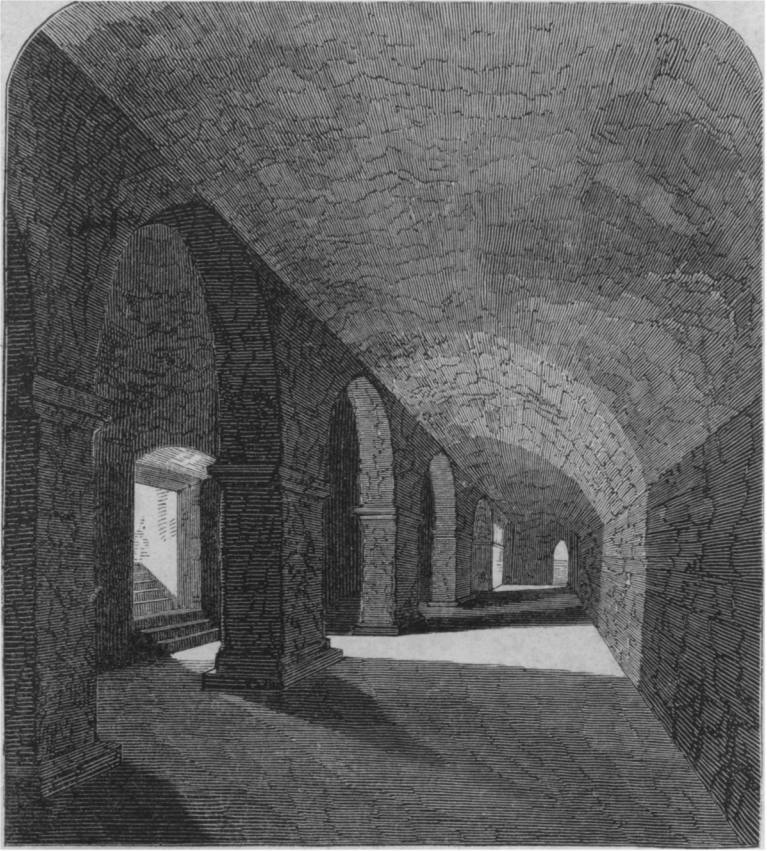
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ANCIENT CRYPT,

Discovered under the Deanery House, Waterford, 1851.

DESCRIPTION OF AN ANCIENT CRYPT BENEATH THE DEANERY HOUSE, WATERFORD.

BY THE VERY REV. EDWARD NEWENHAM HORE, A.M.,
DEAN OF WATERFORD.

[Read at the Meeting of March 5th.]

It was always known that a large vault existed beneath the deanery house at Waterford ; but it was never explored, nor was it known how far it extended. On coming to reside here, in January, 1851, I found this an object of interest to the antiquary, and proceeded to explore and re-open the crypt.

At the commencement of the work, we found the end of the crypt filled with rubbish, so that no more than two-thirds of its entire extent was visible, and all was darkness, no ray of light being admitted into it. On removing some of the rubbish, there was discovered at the extreme end (the south) a pointed-arch door-way, and on proceeding with the work, this was found to lead to a spiral stair. Proceeding up these stairs, we found ourselves in an apartment adjoining the coach-house, the entire staircase having been filled up with rubbish, and part of the offices built over it.* Having removed the building, the staircase was cleared from rubbish, and made to open into the garden. This was evidently the stair of a round tower, leading to the upper story of the ancient buildings.

It still remained to find the original entrance to the lower part of the buildings, which might be presumed to exist. Perceiving at about the centre of the east side of the crypt three steps, and an archway over them, as of a porch, I opened the passage, removing a wall built at a period subsequent to the rest of the building, and which, as I had expected, proved to have been built to stop up the original entrance. After removing the rubbish and earth, and ascending five steps, I came to the threshold of the ancient gate of entrance ; still proceeding upwards, and ascending in like manner five other steps, I came to a broad landing of flags, which must have been the original level of the exterior, and which is at the level of some gardens adjoining the deanery. I was still five feet below the level of the adjoining surface, and found the intermediate soil to be chiefly composed of lime rubbish, and the *debris* of old buildings.

To reach the level of the floor of the crypt and the bases of the pillars, it was necessary to remove two feet and upwards of rubbish from the entire.

The whole length of this crypt is sixty feet, the breadth, which is uniform, nineteen feet. The arch of the vault is a semicircle, and the whole is supported, and divided into two equal aisles, by "massive

* The present deanery and offices were erected about one hundred and fifty years since.

arches, broad and round," springing from "ponderous columns, short and low;" evincing the character of the original building, when, like that of Lindisfarne—"in Saxon strength the abbey frowned." The counter arches are semicircular, springing from square pillars, chamfered at the corners. Of these pillars there are five distinct, forming, with two pilasters, six arches, running from north to south. The height of the crown of the arch is eleven feet—that of the pillars six feet two inches; the distance between the pillars eight and a-half feet. The entrance at the east side is five and a-half feet wide. From floor to threshold of this entrance are five steps of nine-inch risers; and from thence to the original level are five steps more.

The spiral stair at south end is eight and a-half feet in diameter, and consists of twenty-one winding steps of six-inch risers. The pointed door-arch at foot of stairs is seven feet to the point of arch. The window of stairs is three feet below the present exterior level. For the general features of the structure the reader is referred to the accompanying faithful wood engraving.

In the rubbish on the floor, two feet below the surface, was found a coin, having on one side a ship, and on the reverse three *fleurs de lis* in a lozenge, with the word, ORBORUM, inscribed three times on each side, which it is difficult to understand. There is no date on the coin. It is believed that this is a piece of the *black* or *mail* money decreed temp. Edw. IV., but in circulation till Charles II., called *Nurem-burgs*. There were also found several pipes and bowls of pipes of a peculiar form and small bowl. These, it is conjectured, may have been left there by some of Cromwell's soldiers. A very few human bones were also found at two feet deep. The greater part of the pillars, and the entire of the pointed door-arch, are built of a white soft stone, which I believe to be Caen stone, the rest is of native limestone. There are four openings, originally windows, but now beneath the outer surface, at the west side, and the same number at the east side. It is probable that the crypt extended much further, but was cut off to erect the deanery at one end, and the town hall at the other.

A second vault, hitherto used as a coal-cellar, extends from the northern end of the crypt above described; which is curious, as containing in the roof large quantities of the *hurdle*, used for the centring of the arch in the original building of the edifice. In a brick partition, dividing off a wine-cellar in this vault, I found, built up and plastered over as part of the partition, a finely carved piece of oak, apparently part of an altar-screen, measuring seven feet by twenty inches, in good preservation.

Within twenty yards of the deanery are the ruins of a Franciscan abbey, containing some fine lancet windows, and pointed arches, and several curious tombs of the 15th, 16th, and 17th centuries, and a fine mural monument. On several of these tombs are the letters—

 I
 A R
 W

the meaning of which I have not been able to learn. On one of the tombs representing the crucifixion, &c., is

the sword used by St. Peter, and the right ear of the servant which he cut off.

There is a fine altar-tomb in the cathedral close, one half of which had long lain buried under the pavement, until I restored it a few days since. It commemorates a mayor of Waterford, of the name of Rice, who flourished in the fifteenth century, and is said to represent his corpse, as it was found twelve months after interment. Worms, toads, and reptiles are represented crawling out of the body, and about the head and stomach. Around the sides are finely executed bas-reliefs, representing the twelve apostles (six at each side), and, at the head, three bishops, one in the centre sitting in his chair, and holding a crucifix between his knees—at foot are the Virgin and Child, St. Catherine with her wheel, and a third saint. The following inscription in Gothic characters runs round the recumbent figure :—

Hic jacet Jacobus Rice, quondam civis istius civitatis; et mandato istius sepelitur Katerina Broun, uxor ejus. Quisquis eris, qui transieris, sta, perlege, plora; sum quod eris, fuique quod es; pro me precor ora. Est nostrae sortis transire per ostia mortis, Postri Christe, te petimus miserere, quaesumus, qui venisti redimere perditos, noli damnare redemptos.

No date appears on the tomb. James Rice was eight times mayor of Waterford—viz. in 1469, 1471, 1472, 1477, 1483, 1484, 1487, and 1488.

EXTRACTS FROM THE HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES OF JAMES EARL OF OSSORY.

BY THE REV. JAMES GRAVES.

[*Read at the Meeting of January 8th.*]

The household expenses of the duke of Northumberland have long formed a standard book of reference to the historian and antiquary, no other class of original documents serving so substantially to clothe the dry bones of history with flesh and blood. In the Household Book, as we pass from *item* to *item*, we see the *man*, in the varied relations of life, rise up vividly before our mind's eye, whilst the page of history but too often exhibits the unsubstantial shadow of a name. Justly famed, however, as is the Northumberland Household Book, I doubt if an equally interesting and valuable compilation might not be made from the vast mass of household accounts preserved in the Evidence Chamber of the Castle of Kilkenny. Besides many books, regularly kept and audited, four large shelves are filled with the original bills and accounts of the first duke of Ormonde, together with a large mass of similar

CORRIGENDA.

- p. 290, line 32, for "See Fionn," read "See Finn," and for "*Suidhe Fionn*," read "*Suidhe Finn*".
- p. 291, line 17, after "wide," dele " , ,".
- p. 292, line 18, for "covering stone," read "covering-stone".
- Ib. line 41, after "Gaul," insert " , ,".
- p. 293, line 4, for "Suidhe Fionn," read "Suidhe Finn," and for "*Suidhe Fionn*," read "*Suidhe Finn*".
- p. 322, line 3, from bottom, for "Argatros," read "Argetros".
- p. 323, line 9, for "Acadamy," read "Academy".
- p. 324, line 3, for "Fratertach," read "Flahertach".
- p. 387, line 14, for "centre," read "cavern".
- p. 400, line 28, after "what" insert "we".
- Ib. line 40, after "survey," insert " , ,".
- p. 407, line 38, *note*, after "custody," dele ") ".
- p. 410, line 4, from bottom, *note*, for "ΤΗΟΚΡΑΤΗ," read "ΤΗΟΚΡΑΤΗ".
- p. 412, line 25, for "sight," read "site".
- p. 413, line 3, for "HORE," read "HOARE".
- p. 433, line 28, for "for," read "but".
- p. 442, line 2, for "RSQ.," read "ESQ".
- p. 446, line 15, after "lordship," dele " , ,".
- p. 483, line 13, for "earls of Saxon," read "Saxon earls".
- p. 492, line 3, from bottom, after "*Kilkenny*," insert ") ".